

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

*For The Following Qualification:-*

*M.A.*

**M.A. English Language (Modern): Phonetics and Phonology of Modern English**

**COURSE CODE : ENGLMA01**

**DATE : 02-MAY-03**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

Phonetics and Phonology of Modern English

**Answer Question 1 and any two other questions.**

**Do not use substantially the same material for more than one answer, whether on this paper or in other parts of the examination.**

1. Answer both (a) and (b).
- (a) Make a broad transcription of the following passage, showing plausible intonation. State the accent you are transcribing.

'Night's falling,' he said. 'Look robot, the stars are coming out.'  
From the heart of a dark nebula it is possible to see very few stars, and only very faintly, but they were there to be seen.  
The robot obediently looked at them, then looked back.  
'I know,' he said. 'Wretched isn't it?'  
'But that sunset! I've never seen anything like it in my wildest dreams... the two suns! It was like mountains of fire boiling into space.'  
'I've seen it,' said Marvin. 'It's rubbish.'  
'We only ever had the one sun at home,' persevered Arthur, 'I came from a planet called Earth you know.'  
'I know,' said Marvin, 'you keep going on about it. It sounds awful.'  
'Ah no, it was a beautiful place.'  
'Did it have oceans?'  
'Oh yes,' said Arthur with a sigh, 'great wide rolling blue oceans...'  
'Can't bear oceans,' said Marvin.  
'Tell me,' inquired Arthur, 'do you get on well with other robots?'  
'Hate them,' said Marvin.

Douglas Adams: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

- (b) Find a possible example in the above passage of each of the following (RP):
- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) devoiced obstruent            | (ii) velarised and nasalised /l/ |
| (iii) anticipatory assimilation   | (iv) voiced dental plosive       |
| (v) nasalised diphthong           | (vi) unaccented content word     |
| (vii) alveolar plosive elision    | (viii) smoothing                 |
| (ix) glottally reinforced plosive | (x) linking /r/                  |
2. How does the duration of vowels in English Received Pronunciation (RP) vary in context? Does English use vowel length contrastively?
3. "Each syllable contains one vowel and only one" (Wells 1990). Explain this statement, and account for any apparent exceptions in English.

4. Describe in detail the phonetic regularities underlying the formation of regular English plurals and past tenses. Do the consonant clusters that result differ from those found in uninflected words?
5. In what ways do co-articulatory processes affect place of articulation in English?
6. In rapid or colloquial speech certain sounds may get omitted. What are they, and in what phonetic contexts may this phenomenon occur?
7. Which English consonants can be described as "usually voiced"? In what circumstances would they be devoiced?
8. How can English speakers alter the interpretation of an utterance by modifying its phrasing and accent placement?
9. What principles can we use to decide where the main stress should go in an English word?

**END OF PAPER**